GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:126
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Quality of Foodgrains under PDS
Misra Shri Pinaki;Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have declined to lift their quota of foodgrains due to substandard quality of allocated foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and
(c) whether the Government proposes to review and reform the present system of supply of foodgrains and ensure supply of good quality foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO 126 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.05.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA
(a) & (b) There is no report of any State having declined to lift their quota of foodgrains due to substandard quality of allocated foodgrains under Public Distribution System.
(c) Government has issued detailed instructions to all State Governments/UTs and FCI from time to time, to ensure good quality foodgrains are issued from FCI godowns to State Governments for distribution under PDS, which are as under:
(i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
(ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior lifting of foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
(iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations.
(iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
(v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
(vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/ UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
(vii) The State Government, where decentralized procurement system is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
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